

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 ARA-10 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 /117 W

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R 260054Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1530

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1525

UNCLAS USUN 3825

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PO, PT

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR IN UN

AT REQUEST OF PORTUGUESE CHARGE DA COSTA LOBO, UN HAS  
CIRCULATED AS GA DOC A/10208 LETTER FROM PORTUGUESE  
FONMIN RUIVO DATED 22 AUG TO UNSYG WALDHEIM REGARDING  
THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR:

QUO

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1975 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE SINCERE INTENTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE  
GOVERNMENT WHICH, UP TO THE PRESENT TIME, HAS GIVEN EVIDENT  
PROOF OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO BRING TO A CONCLUSION THE  
PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION OF ALL THE TERRITORIES UNDER ITS  
ADMINISTRATION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER  
AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF 14 DECEMBER  
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1960. THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH

THE ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE BY GUINEA-BISSAY, MOZAMBIQUE, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, AND CAPE VERDE HAVE TAKE PLACE DEMONSTRATE THE TRUTH OF THIS.

2. DURING THE RECENT MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AT LISBON, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED CONCERNING THE AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED "QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION" WHICH EXPRESSES, IN PARAGRAPH 7, CONCERNING TIMOR, "THE HOPE THAT NECESSARY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN, AS APPROPRIATE, TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THAT TERRITORY TO ATTAIN THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE DECLARATION" (RESOLUTION 1514 (XV)).

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 7/75 OF 7 JULY 1975 WAS PUBLISHED, ESTABLISHING THE DECOLONIZATION PLAN WHICH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO IMPEMMENT IN TIMOR, WITH THE AIM OF LEADING THAT TERRITORY TO INDEPENDENCE IN 1978.

4. SINCE 10 AUGUST OF THIS MONTH, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN TIMOR HAS BEEN DETERIORATING SERIOUSLY, CAUSING THE GREATEST CONCERN TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

5. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THAT TERRITORY, THE SITUATION IN TIMOR CAN BE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A SPREADING OF ARMED CONFLICTS BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL FACTIONS, RESULTING IN DEATHS AND INJURIES AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION, THE EXACT NUMBEROF WHICH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE; AN ADHERENCE OF ALMOST ALL THE NATIVE-BORN MILITARY IN TIMOR, WHO CONSTITUTE THE BATTLING FACTIONS, WHICH HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL THE SITUATION; AN INABILITY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION IN THE VARIOUS AREAS OF THE TERRITORY, OWNING TO THE LACK OF ACCESS TO THE EXISTING MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

6. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED AS ONE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NEAR CIVIL WAR, SHORTAGES OF MANY KINDS ARE ALREADY BEING FELT. IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THE PERSONAL PROTECTION OF NATIONALS OR FOREIGNERS AND THEIR PROPERTY AS WELL AS TO ENSURE CONDITIONS OF MINIMUM SECURITY FOR THE EVACUATION OF ALL THOSE DESIRING TO LEAVE.

7. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERBMENT, CONSCIOUS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, MADE AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE NEIGHBOURING

COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE TERRITORY, INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA, ASKING FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE HUMANITARIAN TASKS WHICH MUST RECEIVE PRIMARY EMPHASIS UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

8. THE SAME APPEAL HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

9. IN LIGHT OF THE PRECEDING, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ALERT THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH YOU, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, TO THE FULL GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION.

(SIGNED) MARIO RUIVO  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF PORTUGAL  
UNQUOTE  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DOCUMENTS, TEXT, INDEPENDENCE, POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DEPENDENCIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975USUNN03825  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750294-0512  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750815/aaaaanmw.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PORTUGUESE TIMOR IN UN AT REQUEST OF PORTUGUESE CHARGE DA COSTA LOBO, UN HAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PO, PT, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006